

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Jacob Lassner (b. 1935), former director of Jewish Studies at Northwestern University is the Phillip M. and Ethel Klutznick Professor Emeritus of Jewish Civilization in the departments of History and Religion of that university. Professor Lassner, who received his doctorate at Yale, taught at Wayne State University; and also held visiting appointments at the universities of Michigan; California-Berkeley; and Toronto (Shier Distinguished Visiting Professor). He served on occasion as Sackler Professor of Middle East History at Tel Aviv University and spent a term as the Charles E. Smith Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies at the George Washington University following his retirement from Northwestern.

He has been a member of the Institute of Advanced Study (Princeton); a fellow of the Hebrew Union College Biblical and Archeological School (Jerusalem); the Rockefeller Institute in Bellagio, Italy; the Harvard centers of Jewish and Middle East studies; and the Oxford Center for Hebrew and Jewish Studies where he was Skirball Fellow for Jewish-Muslim relations.

Lassner is a recipient of awards from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities [twice], The Social Science Research Council [three times]. He was also appointed fellow of the Annenberg Institute, and the Institute for Advanced Studies of the Hebrew University (both declined), Professor Lassner has authored and/or co-authored eleven books in addition to being curator of a prize winning museum exhibition on the Cairo Geniza, an extraordinary cache of documents revealing the life of Jews in the lands of Islam. His written articles and refereed presentations on Near Eastern History and Jewish-Muslim relations number more than 150. He has delivered seventy lectures [seven endowed] at twenty-nine universities world wide, including: Harvard, Yale, Princeton, California-Berkeley, Michigan, Columbia, Chicago, Cornell, the Hebrew University (Jerusalem), Tel Aviv, Ben Gurion, Haifa, Bar Ilan, Toronto, and Oxford.

In recognition of his scholarship, he was made Doctor of Humane Letters (Honoris Causa) by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and elected President of the American Oriental Society, America's oldest scholarly society devoted to a specific discipline. In 2013 he was awarded the Franz Rosenthal Prize for a lifetime of distinguished contributions to Islamic Studies.

LECTURE SUBJECTS

Can Arabs be Anti-Semites

The meaning of Tolerance: Jewish-Muslim Relations in the 'Golden Age.'

The Uses of the Hebrew Bible in the Politics of the Modern Near East.

The Deep Historical Background of the Arab-Israel Dispute.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Date Revised: 2/2013

Name: Jacob Lassner

Birth: March 15, 1935 - U.S.A.

Education:

L.H.D. (Honoris Causa) Hebrew Union College –Jewish Institute of Religion (2000)

Ph.D. Yale University (1963) Near Eastern Language and Literatures

M.A. Brandeis University (1957) Near Eastern & Judaic Studies

A.B. University of Michigan (1955) Near Eastern Studies

Graduate Fields:

Arabic Language & Literature (F. Rosenthal); Islamic History, Religion & Scholarship (F. Rosenthal); Islamic Art and Archeology (R. Ettinghausen -- at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University); Post-Biblical Hebrew Language and Literature (J. Golden); Jewish History (N.N. Glatzer); Aramaic (M.H. Pope); Ugaritic (J. Greenfield); Near Eastern Archeology (H. Ingholt).

Present Interests:

The historical background of Jewish-Muslim relations

Jewish themes in Islamic Tradition

Jews in the orbit of Islam

Urban history of the medieval Near East

Arabic historical writing

Islamic government and military organization

Political-Religious parties of early Islam reflected in the history of modern times

Classical Islamic tradition and the modern Near East

Biblical scholarship and the politics of the Modern Near East

The deep roots of Arab-Israel problem

Subjects Taught:

Historical Background of Jewish-Muslim Relations; Jewish Themes in Medieval Arabic Tradition; Medieval Jewry in the Orbit of Islam; Muhammad, the Jews and the Origins of Islam; Arabic Lang. & Lit.; Post-Biblical Hebrew Texts; Islamic Civilization; Medieval Near Eastern History; Medieval Cities; Arabic Historiography; and The Historical Background of the Arab-Israel Problem.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

CURRENT

Phillip M. and Ethel Klutznick Professor Emeritus of Jewish Civilization (Departments History/Religion) Northwestern University 2007-

PREVIOUS

Assistant Professor	Wayne State University 1963-67
Associate Professor	Wayne State University 1967-71
Professor	Wayne State University 1971-90
Distinguished Professor	Wayne State University 1990-93
Chairman	Near Eastern & Asian St. 1967-91 (WSU)
Director	Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies (WSU) 1988-93
Visiting Research Scholar	Princeton University 1979-80
Member	Institute for Advanced Study 1979-80
Visiting Professor, Religion	University of California, Berkeley 1984
Visiting Professor, History	University of Michigan 1987
Visiting Research Scholar	Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University 1987
Research Affiliate	Center for Middle East Studies, Harvard University 1987
Research Affiliate	Dayan Centre for Middle East Studies, Tel Aviv University 1988, 1990-
Resident Scholar	Rockefeller Institute. Bellagio 1988

Visiting Scholar	Oxford Centre for Post Graduate Hebrew Studies 1989,1991, 2002-2007, 2009-2010.
Klutznick Professor Jewish Civilization	Northwestern University 1991, 1993-2007
Sackler Occasional Professor Middle East History	Tel Aviv University 1998-2002
Skirball Fellow in Jewish- Muslim Relations	Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies 1996
Shoshana Shier Distinguished Visiting Professor Jewish Studies	University of Toronto 1997
Charles E. Smith Visitng Professor Jewish History	George Washington University 2007
Curator. Exhibit of Documents from the Ben Ezra Synagogue. Cairo	Spertus Museum of Judaica 2002

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Nominating Committee	American Oriental Society 1963 Middle West Branch
Auditing Committee	AOS Middle West Branch 1965
Vice President	AOS Middle West Branch 1971-72
President	AOS Middle West Branch 1972-73
Executive Comm.	AOS Middle West Branch 1972-75
Board of Directors	AOS National 1972-73, 78-83
Sectional Comm. Islam	AOS 1978
Acting Chrm. Sect. Comm.	AOS 1977
Chr. Sect. Comm. Islam	AOS 1978-83
Vice-President	AOS 1990-91
President	AOS 1991-92
Executive Editor	Tabari Translation Project 1979-85

J.H. Breasted Prize Committee	American Historical Association 1985-88, 2000-2002
Academic Advisory Board	National Foundation Jewish Culture 1988-95
Board of Directors	Association for Jewish Studies 1995-98
Editorial Board	Wayne State University Press 1989-93
Editorial Advisor	MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES Univ. of Michigan Press 1988-95

AWARDS

American Council Learned Societies Grant 1968-69

Fellow, Hebrew Union College Biblical & Archeological School 1968-69

Guggenheim Fellowship 1972-73

American Council Learned Societies - Social Sc. Res. Council Grant (ACLS-SSRC) 1977

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship 1979-80

Member, Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton) 1979-80

ACLS-SSRC Grant 1981

NEH Fellowship 1987-88

Resident Scholar, Rockefeller Institute Bellagio 1988

Fellowship, Annenberg Research Institute 1991 (declined)

Member, Inst. for Advanced Studies Hebrew U. 1992 (declined)

Skirball Fellow Jewish-Muslim Relations, Oxford Centre for Hebrew & Jewish Studies 1996

Bronze Medal American Museum Association 2002

The Franz Rosenthal Prize of the American Oriental Society 2013

PUBLICATIONS & PAPERS

Books:

THE TOPOGRAPHY OF BAGHDAD IN THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES: TEXT & STUDIES. Detroit, 1970, 325 pp.; translated and adapted into Arabic by S.A. al-Ali, Baghdad, 1984. 399 pp.

THE SHAPING OF ABBASID RULE. Princeton, 1980. 345 pp.

ISLAMIC REVOLUTION AND HISTORICAL MEMORY. New Haven, 1986. 171 pp.

THE HISTORY OF AL-TABARI, Vol. XXXVII. Translated P. Fields, annotated J. Lassner. SUNY Press, 1986. 214 pp.

DEMONIZING THE QUEEN OF SHEBA: BOUNDARIES OF GENDER & CULTURE IN POST-BIBLICAL JUDAISM & MEDIEVAL ISLAM. Chicago, 1993. 296 pp.

A MEDITERRANEAN SOCIETY. Revised and abridged version of S.D. Goitein's five volume work. Berkeley-Los Angeles, 1999. 503 pp; translated into Italian, 2002. 639 pp.; translated into Hebrew by S. Somekh.

THE MIDDLE EAST REMEMBERED: FORGED IDENTITIES, COMPETING NARRATIVES, CONTESTED SPACES. Ann Arbor , 2000. 447 pp.

A GATEWAY TO MEDIEVAL MEDITERRANEAN LIFE: CAIRO'S BEN EZRA SYNAGOGUE. Edited J. Lassner. Chicago, 2001. 80 pp.

JEWS AND MUSLIMS IN ARAB LANDS: HAUNTED BY PASTS REAL AND IMAGINED. With Ilan Troen. Rowman & Littlefield, 2007. 410 pp.

MEDIEVAL ISLAM: THE ORIGINS AND SHAPING OF CLASSICAL ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION. With Michael Bonner. Praeger, 2010. 352 pp.

JEWS, CHRISTIANS, AND THE ABODE OF ISLAM: MODERN SCHOLARSHIP, MEDIEVAL REALITIES. Chicago, 2012. 336 pp.

Articles:

"The Habl of Baghdad and the Dimensions of the City: A Metrological Note." JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE ORIENT 6 (1963).

"Notes on the Topography of Baghdad: The Systematic Descriptions of the City and the Khatib al-Baghadadi." JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ORIENTAL SOCIETY 83 (1963).

"Why did the Caliph al-Mansur Build ar-Rusafah: A Historical Note." JOURNAL OF NEAR EASTERN STUDIES 24 (1965).

- "Some Speculative Thoughts on the Search for an Abbasid Capital, Part I." MUSLIM WORLD 4 (July 1965).
- "Some Speculative Thoughts on the Search for an Abbasid Capital, Part II." MUSLIM WORLD 4 (October 1965).
- "Massignon and Baghdad: The Complexities of Growth in an Imperial Center." JESHO 5 (Spring 1967).
- "Municipal Entities and Mosques: More on the Imperial City." JESHO 10 (Summer 1967).
- "The Caliph's Personal domain: The City Plan of Baghdad Reexamined." THE ISLAMIC CITY, ed. A.H. Hourani and S. Stern, 1970.
- "Did the Caliph Abu Ja'far al-Mansur Murder His Uncle Abadallah Ali? -- Other Problems Within the Ruling House of the Abbasids." STUDIES IN MEMORY OF GASTON WIET, ed. M. Rosen-Ayalon.
- "Abu Ja'far al-Mansur and the Governors of the Haramayn." STUDIA ISLAMICA XLIX (1979).
- "Provincial Administration Under the Early Abbasids: The Ruling Family and the Amsar of Iraq." STUDIA ISLAMICA XLX (1979).
- "Propaganda in Early Islam: The Abbasids in the Post-Revolutionary Age." ISRAEL ORIENTAL STUDIES (1979).
- "The Geographical Origins of Abu Muslim: Was He an Iraqi a Khurasani or a Man from Isfahan." JAOS 104 (1984).
- "Abu Muslim the Son of Salit: A Skeleton in the Abbasid Closet?" STUDIES IN ISLAMIC HISTORY AND CIVILIZATION IN HONOR OF DAVID AYALON, ed. M. Sharon.
- "The Abbasid Dawlah: An Essay on the Concept of Revolution in Early Islam." TRADITION AND INNOVATION IN LATE ANTIQUITY, ed. F.M. Clover and R.S. Humphreys, 1984.
- "The Covenant of the Prophets: Muslim Texts, Jewish Subtext." ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH STUDIES REVIEW 15 (1990).
- "The Origin of Muslim Attitudes Towards the Jews and Judaism." JUDAISM 39 (1990).
- "The 'One Who Had Knowledge of the Book' and the 'Mightiest Name of God.' Qur'anic Exegesis and Jewish Cultural Artifacts." STUDIES IN MUSLIM-JEWISH RELATIONS 1 (1992).
- "Doing Islamic History: Reflections on Baseball, Arabic Historiography and Historical Memory." JAOS 114 (1994).

"Ritual Purity and Political Exile: Solomon, the Queen of Sheba, and the Events of 586 B.C.E. in a Yemenite Folktale." SOLVING RIDDLES AND UNTYING KNOTS: BIBLICAL AND EPIGRAPHIC STUDIES IN HONOR OF JONAS GREENFIELD, 1995.

"Abraham Geiger on Muhammad and the Origins of Islam." THE JEWISH DISCOVERY OF ISLAM. STUDIES HONORING BERNARD LEWIS ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY. Ed. Martin Kraemer (1999).

"The Trialogue of Jewish-Muslim Relations." SINCLAIR HOUSE DEBATES (1999).

"Jews in Islamic Lands." Ch. 2 of THE JEWISH ENIGMA, publ. of the Open University in London (1992).

"Historiography of Historical Consciousness: Time and the Dialectic of Jewish Muslim Relations." JUDAISM AND ISLAM, BOUNDARIES, COMMUNICATION AND INTERACTION. Ed. B. Hary et al., 2000.

"Geniza Studies in the United States." A GATEWAY TO MEDIEVAL MEDITERRANEAN LIFE: CAIRO'S BEN EZRA SYNAGOGUE. (2001).

"The Jews Under Islam in the Age of the Geniza." A GATEWAY TO MEDITERRANEAN LIFE: CAIRO'S BEN EZRA SYNAGOGUE. (2001).

"Reflections on the Reign of the Caliph al-Mutawakkil and the Murder of Itakh the Turk." STUDIES IN THE HISTORY OF MUSLIM PEOPLES. The Israel Academy of Arts and Sciences (2006).

"New Riddles From the Queen of Sheba." STUDIES IN HONOR OF JOEL KRAEMER. Ed. by Tz. Laengerman. 2007

"Muslims on the Sanctity of Jerusalem: Preliminary Thoughts on the Search for a Conceptual Framework." FRANZ ROSENTHAL MEMORIAL VOLUME. Edited by Y. Friedman. JESAI v.31 (2007).

"Rashid Khalidi and the Palestinians Failure to Achieve Statehood." ISRAEL JOURNAL OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. 2009.

"Can Arabs be Antisemites?: Race, Prejudice, and Political Culture in the Islamic Near East." In VARIETIES OF ANTISEMITISM. Ed. M. Baumgartner et.al. (2009)

"Some Reflections on Structural Imbalances in the Early Islamic State and the Formation of Slave Regiments." (In Press, JESAI)

"Wither Shiite Islam? Authenticating a Shiite Future Based on Reading an Islamic Past." BUSTAN 1 (2010).

“Responses to Unwanted Authority in Early Islam: Models for Current Shi‘i and Sunni activists.” In *THE SUNNA AND SHI‘A IN HISTORY*. Palgrave-Macmillan (2011)

Encyclopedia Articles

(Encyclopedia of Islam; Encyclopedia Persica; Encyclopedia of the Qur’an; Encyclopedia Judaica, etc.): Over 40 entries.

Refereed Papers

"The Search for an Abbasid Capital." Regional Meeting of The American Oriental Society, Spring, 1963.

"The City Plan of Baghdad Reexamined." National Meeting AOS, 1964.

"The Suburbs of Baghdad and the Economic Policies of Early Abbasids." Regional Meeting AOS, Spring, 1964.

"Massignon and the Markets of Baghdad." National Meeting AOS, 1965.

"Baghdad: The Quantitative City." Regional Meeting AOS, 1966.

"Baghdad: The Character of a City." National Meeting AOS, 1966.

"Some Speculative Remarks on the Urban Policies of Al-Mansur and al-Mahdi." National Meeting AOS, 1967.

"The Historical Development of the Mosque of the Round City." Regional Meeting AOS, Spring, 1967.

"The Islamic City in the Early Middle Ages." Meetings of American Historical Association, Winter, 1967.

"The Imperial Centers of the Abbasids." National Meeting AOS, Spring, 1968.

"The Topography of Military Occupation Under the Early Abbasids." Symposium on the City in Asia." National Meeting AOS, 1970.

"The Abbasid Military and al-Jahiz Manaqib." National Meeting AOS, Spring, 1972.

"Some Reflections on the Year 145 A.H." National Meeting AOS, 1972.

"Observations of a Royal Conversation Between al-Mahdi and His Uncle." National Meeting AOS, Spring, 1973.

"Abu Ja'far al-Mansur and the Quest for Legitimacy in a Post-Revolutionary Age." Israel Oriental Society, Spring, 1973.

- "Some Royal Intrigues of the Eighth Century A.D." Regional Meeting AOS, Fall, 1974.
- "Some Reflections on Abbasid Government (750-805 A.D.)." Middle East Studies Associations, Fall, 1974.
- "The Succession to Abu al-Abbas." National Meeting AOS, 1975.
- "Abu Ja'far al-Mansur and the Governorships of the Harnayn." Middle East Studies Association, 1975.
- "The Professional Army of the Early Abbasids." American Historical Association, Winter, 1975.
- "The Function of Abbasid Clientage." Regional Meeting AOS, 1976.
- "The Military as Mawla: Notes on Ibn al-Muqaffa' Risalah fi as-Sahabah." National Meeting AOS, Spring, 1976.
- "Mansurid Traditions and Abbasid Historiography." World Congress of Orientalists, Summer, 1976.
- "Post-Revolutionary Propaganda of the Abbasids." Middle East Studies Association, Fall, 1976.
- "Some Remarks Concerning Abbasid Polemics and the Death of the Prophet." Regional Meeting AOS, Winter, 1977.
- "Islamic Architecture and the Cosmic Iconography of Kingship: Art-Historical Realities." National Meeting AOS, 1977.
- "What Happened to the Abbasid Tribal Army of Khurasan." Middle East Studies Association, Fall, 1977.
- "Urban Investments of the Elite in Medieval Iraq." Regional Meeting AOS, Winter, 1978.
- "The Enigma of Abu Muslim al-Khurasani." National Meeting AOS, 1978.
- "Legal Definitions of the Islamic City." International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations, Spring, 1978.
- "Two Cases of Real Estate Speculation in Medieval Baghdad." Regional Meeting AOS, Winter, 1979.
- "The Shaping of an Abbasid Tradition: The Conversion of Abu Muslim." National Meeting AOS, Spring, 1979.
- "The Rhetoric of Revolution in Early Islam." International Conference on Islam and Political Change, Shiloah Research Institute, Tel Aviv, Spring, 1979.
- "The Encoding of Arabic Historical Writing." Regional Meeting AOS, Winter, 1980.

- "The Last Testament of Abu Hashim b. Muhammad b. al-Hanafiyah." National Meeting AOS, 1980.
- "The Political Dream in Early Islam." ISCSC, Spring, 1980.
- "The Birth of the Caliph Abu Ja'far al-Mansur." Regional Meeting AOS, Spring, 1981.
- "Political Propaganda and the Uses of History in Early Islam." National Meeting AOS, Spring, 1981.
- "Problems of Chronology in Early Islam." Regional Meeting AOS, 1982.
- "The Hagiography of Ali. b. Abdallah." National Meeting AOS, 1982.
- "The Stratigraphy of Early Islamic Historiography." Regional Meeting AOS, Winter, 1983.
- "The Abbasid Revolution: Back Projection and Mirror Images." Colloquium of Islamic Historians, AOS, Spring, 1983.
- "Chronological Layering in the Abbasid Traditions." National Meeting, AOS, Spring, 1984.
- "The Abbasid Dawlah: The Concept of Revolution in Early Islam." International Conference on the Mediterranean World in Late Antiquity, Madison, Wisconsin, 1984.
- "Historical Memory and Early Arabic Historiography." Regional Meeting AOS, Winter, 1985.
- "Concubinage, Politics and Social Status in the Medieval Near East." National Meeting AOS, Winter, 1985.
- "Ibn Ishaq's Commentary to Qur'an III:75: Is There a Jewish Subtext?" National Meeting AOS, Spring, 1985.
- "Islamic Historiography: Apologetics and Historical Writing in Early Islam." Meeting of the AHA, Winter, 1986.
- "The Covenant of the Prophets: An Arabic Text Informed by a Jewish Reading." National Meeting AOS, Spring, 1987.
- "Jewish Studies in the Context of Near Eastern Studies." Conference on the State of Jewish Studies, Indiana University, 1987.
- "The Origin of Muhammad's Mission: Arabic Texts, Hebrew Sources and Medieval Muslim Polemics." Meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, 1987.
- "Muslim Uses of the Jewish Past: Ancient Themes and the Formation of Attitudes to the People of the Book." Meeting of the American Academy For Jewish Research, 1987.
- "The Demonizing of the Queen of Sheba: Hierarchies of Gender in Post-Biblical and Medieval

- Islamic Sources." National Meeting AOS, Spring, 1989.
- "Why Did Solomon Threaten the Hoopoe Severely or Slaughter Him?" Reflections on the Tarqum Sheni to the Book of Esther and Qur'an 27:21 Natl. Meeting AOS, Spring, 1990.
- "Qur'an 27:40 and Jewish Religious Themes." National Meeting AOS, Spring 1991.
- "The 'One Who Had Knowledge of the Book' and the Mightiest Name of God: Muslim Exegesis and Jewish Temple and Liturgical Practices." International Conference on Exegesis, Oxford University.
- "Was the Queen of Sheba Wearing White? The Battle of the Sexes in an Eighteenth Century Yemenite Folktale." AJS Meeting, 1992.
- "Brooklyn Baseball; Arabic Historiography & Historical Memory." Presidential Address AOS, Spring, 1992.
- "Reflections on Nebuchadnezzar's Birth: A Judeo-Islamic Perspective." International Conference on the Jews of Islamic Lands. Institute for Jewish Studies, London University, 1992.
- "The Transfer and Absorption of Cultural Artifacts in Judeo-Islamic Civilization." International Conference on an Integration Emigration, Bornblum Center for Jewish Studies, 1993.
- "Ritual Purity and Political Exile: Explaining the Babylonian Captivity in an Eighteenth Century Folktale." AOS National Meeting, 1993.
- "The Dialectics of Jewish-Muslims Relations." Bridging the Worlds of Judaism and Islam: An International Conference, Berkeley, California, 1993.
- "Time, History and Historical Consciousness in the Medieval Near East." AOS National Meeting, 1994.
- "Jewish Reflections on Early Islamic History: Joseph Sambari's Sefer Divre Yosef." AOS National Meeting, 1995.
- "The Use of Biblical Quotations in a 17th Century Jewish Polemic Against Islam." International Conference on Polemics, The Institute for Advance Studies, The Hebrew University, 1996
- "The Muslim, Christian & Jewish Versions of the Bahira Legend." AOS National Meeting (1996).
- "Joseph Sambari on the Origins of Islam: Hebrew Scripture and Jewish-Muslim Polemics in Ottoman Egypt." International Conference on Religions Communities in the 16th Century, Northwestern University (1996).
- "Abram Geiger on the Origins of Islam." International Conference on the Jewish Discovery of Islam, Tel Aviv University (1996).

"A Tale of Two Cities: The Foundation Lore of Baghdad & Samarra." AOS Meeting (1997).

"Biblical Texts and Jewish-Muslim Polemics. Residual Traces of Medieval Exegesis." International Conference on Scriptural Interpretation, University of Toronto (1997).

"The Cairo Genizah and Near Eastern History." Association for Jewish Studies (1997).

"Reflections on the Reign of al-Mutawakkil." AOS National Meeting, (1998, by Title).

"A Response to David Nirenberg on Jewish and Muslim minorities in Medieval Spain." Midwest Association for Jewish Studies (1998).

"Jewish Attitudes Towards Christianity and Islam." The Abraham Conference (1998).

"Further Reflections on the Reign of al-Mutawakkil." AOS national Meeting (1998).

"The Bahira Legend in Jewish, Muslim and Christian Sources." Tel-Aviv University. Forum Middle East History (1999).

"Early Arabic Historiography." Tel-Aviv University. Seminar Middle East History (1999).

"The Murder of Itakh the Turk." Memorial Conference for David Ayalon. Jerusalem (1999).

"Judeo-Islamica." Association for Jewish Studies (1999).

"Did the Caliph al-Mutawakkil Reorganize the Imperial Army?" American Oriental Society (2000).

"Regional Versus Religious Authority in the Islamic World." Tel Aviv University. Forum Middle East History (2000).

"What Makes the Islamic City an Islamic City." Colloquium on Mediterranean History. Tel Aviv University (2000).

"Tribalism on the Eve of Islam." Colloquium on Tribalism. Tel Aviv University (2000).

"More Notes on the Topography of Baghdad: The Mashhad Ms. of Ibn al-Faqih. National Meeting AOS (2001).

"The Geniza Studies and the History of the Islamic Near East." Midwest Jewish Studies Association. (2001).

"Religion and the State in the Islamic World." Conference on Religion and Politics, Wayne State University (2002).

"Paradigms for the Transfer and Absorption of Cultural Artifacts in Medieval Islam and Judaism." National Meeting AOS (2002).

- “Islam as an Axial Age Civilization?” Conference on Axial Age Civilizations hosted by the Hebrew University in Florence, Italy (2002).
- “Anti-Fada’il al-Quds Traditions in Early Islam.” National Meeting, AOS, (2003).
- “Is there Arab Anti-Semitism?” Conference on Anti-Semitism at the University of California, Santa Cruz (2003).
- “Jews and the Origins of Islamic Studies in the Western Academy.” Conference on Religion and the University, Wayne State University (2003).
- “Adaptations to the Multi-Cultural Environment: The Mediterranean in the Middle Ages.” International Conference on Globalism and the Mediterranean, Rome (2003).
- “The First “Islamic” Cities: Religion, Tribal Identities, and Civic Organization” International Workshop Ben-Gurion University (2004).
- “Arab Politics and the Sanctification of Medieval Jerusalem.” Northwestern University Conference on “Jerusalem City of Three Faiths.” (2004).
- “Local versus Regional Authority in Abbasid Times.” Islamic Institute/University of Chicago. (2004).
- “Change Under the Early Abbasids.” Islamic Institute/University of Chicago. (2003).
- “Politicizing the Ancient Near East.” Association for Jewish Studies. (2005).
- “The Formation of Palestinian Nationalism in the 1930s.” Annual Conference of the Space Between Society. (2005)
- “More Thoughts on the Islamization of Jerusalem.” AOS National Meeting (2006)
- “Skepticism in Rabbinic Judaism and Early Islam.” Conference on Science, Skepticism, and Religion. University of California-Davis. (2007)
- “Apocalyptic Meanderings in the anti-fada’il al-Quds Literature.” National Meeting AOS (2007).
- “Early Muslim Responses to Unwanted Authority: Potential Uses of the Past and the Current Situation in the Middle East.” International Conference on Shiism at Tel Aviv University. (2007).
- “Jewish-Muslim Relations: The Influence of the Past on the Present.” Colloquium of the Institute for Humanistic Judaism. (2007).
- “A Muslim Response to the Holy City.” Association for Jewish Studies (2007).
- “From Terra Sancta to Islamic Holy Land.” Association for Israel Studies (2008)

“Race and Tolerance in the Islamic World.” Colloquium in Honor of Ilan Troen. Ben Gurion University (2008)

Respondent to panel on “Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.” Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (2008)

“Structural Imbalances in the Islamic State and the Origins of Islamic Slave Armies.” Conference Commemorating the Tenth Anniversary of the Death of David Ayalon. The Israel Academy of Arts and Sciences (2009).

“The Uses and Misuses of the Past in the Formation of Israeli and Palestinian National Consciousness.” Assoc. for Jewish Studies (2009).

“The Roots of Modern Muslim Antisemitism: Jews and the Traditional Concept of Tolerance in Islam.” International Conference on Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity. Hosted by Yale University (2010).

“Can Muslim Revivalists Embrace the Notion of Living in a Pluralistic and Democratic State of Israel?” Association for Israel Studies (2011)

“Oleg Grabar and the Formation of Islamic Art History in the United States.” AOS annual meeting (2012).

“Martyrdom, Self Sacrifice, and the Quest for Legitimacy in Early Islam.” International conference on Islamic martyrdom hosted by the Israel Academy of Arts and Sciences (2012).

“Did the Caliph Mu‘awiyah Plan to Transfer the Seat of Islamic Rule From Damascus to Jerusalem: Evidence From Jewish Sources.” AOS annual meeting (2013)

Invited Endowed Lectures:

The Georges A. Kaller Lectures Tel-Aviv University:

"Doing Islamic History: Politics and Historiography in Early Islam"

"Ideology and Revolution in Islam"

"Ancient Jewish History and Early Islamic Historiography"

"Jewish Readings of a Judeo-Islamic Past"

The S.D. Goitein Lecture Ben Zvi Institute Jerusalem:

"The Medieval Muslim Outlook on Ancient Israelite Historiography.

The Shoshana Shier Lectures, University of Toronto:

"The Beginning of Jewish-Muslim Relations"

"Interconnections Between Judaism and Islam"

"The Modern Jewish Discovery of Islam"

The Sophie Rohlik Memorial Lectures, Wayne State University:

"Can Arabs Be Anti-Semites?"

"The Historical Background of the Islamic State."

The Solomon Goldman Lecture, Spertus Institute of Judaica:

"The Status of the Jews Under Islam in the Age of Geniza."

The Yedidah Stillman Memorial Lecture, University of Oklahoma

"Jerusalem: City of Three Faiths"

University Lectures

University of Michigan, 1963(2), 1980, 1993(3), 2007

Columbia University, 1965, 1980(2), 1987

Bar-Ilan University, 1968

The Hebrew University, 1969(2), 1992, 1996

New York University, 1971, 1976

Tel-Aviv University 1976, 1978, 1992, 1996

The Ohio State University, 1977

Princeton University, 1980(2), 1987, 1995

University of California (Berkeley), 1980,1984

University of Chicago, 1981, 1995

Cornell University, 1983

Indiana University, 1985

Harvard University, 1985

Northwestern University, 1985, 1989, 1991, 1993

Catholic University of America, 1986, 2007

Brandeis University, 1987, 2005, 2012

Yale University, 1987, 2011
Haifa University, 1988
Emory University, 1989
Ben Gurion University, 1992, 2004
University of Illinois, 1993
Spertus Institute of Judaica, 1993, 2002
University of Illinois, Chicago 1994 (2)
University of Oxford, 1996 (2)
Elmhurst College, 1998
Middlebury College, 2000
George Washington University, 2007
St. Louis University, 2009
Vanderbilt University, 2012

